

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6244

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTING KNESSET SEATS

1. STILL INCOMPLETE RETURNS GIVE THE FOLLOWING
PROJECTION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF KNESSET SEATS:

LIKUD	41
ALIGNMENT	32
DMC	14
NRP	12
AGUDAT YISRAEL	4
POALEI AGUDAT YISRAEL	2
RAKAH	6
SHLOMZION	2
FLATTO-SHARON	2
ILP	1
CITIZENS RIGHTS	1
UNITED ARAB LIST	
(ALIGNMENT AFFILIATED)	1

2. COUNTING CONTINUES TODAY, INCLUDING THE COUNT
OF THE SOLDIER VOTE. THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE HOPES TO HAVE COMPLETE UNOFFICIAL RETURNS
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BY THE VENING OF MAY 22. MEANWHILE, THE ABOVE RE-
SULTS ARE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES THAT WILL NOT
AFFECT THE RANKING OF THE MAJOR PARTIES BUT COULD BE
SIGNIFICANT TO THE LESSER ONES AND POSSIBLY IMPORTANT
TO GOVERNMENT FORMATION. FOR EXAMPLE, POALEI AGUDAT
YISRAEL AT THIS POINT APPEARS TO BE SHAKY IN ITS
HOLD ON A SECOND SEAT AND COULD END UP WITH ONLY ONE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ALIGNMENT IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO A 33RD SEAT.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE POTENTIAL CHANGES, DISTRIBUTION OF THE PARTIES' SURPLUSES MAY AFFECT THE FINAL PICUTRE. THE MINIMUM NECESSARY FOR A PARTY'S FIRST SEAT IS 1 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE, APPROXIMATELY 18,000 VOTES. (FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SEAT, SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THIS FIGURE IS REQUIRED.) THERE ARE SEVERAL AGREEMENTS INVOLVING THE PAIRING OF PARTIES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES REMAINING AFTER THE NUMBER OF SEATS HAS BEEN ALLOTTED TO EACH PARTY. IF THE TWO PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT HAVE BETWEEN THEM SUFFICIENT SURPLUS VOTES FOR A SEAT, THAT SEAT WILL GO TO THE PARTY HAVING THE LARGEST SURPLUS. EXISTING AGREEMENTS PAIR THE ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNITED ARAB LIST, THE LIKUD WITH SHLOMZION, THE DMC WITH THE CITIZENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

4. ASIDE FROM THESE AGREEMENTS, WHICH WERE ALL REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE ELECTION WITH THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, THE DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS VOTES IS GOVERNED BY THE BADER-OFER LAW ENACTED BEFORE THE 1973 ELECTION. IT PROVIDES THAT ALL SURPLUS VOTES (BEYOND THOSE DISPOSED OF BY THE PAIRING AGREEMENTS) ARE PUT INTO A POOL AND THEN DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION OF VOTES EACH PARTY RECEIVES IN THE ELECTION. THE LAW CLEARLY FAVORS THE LARGER PARTIES. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LIKUD RECEIVED 35 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE, IT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO 35 PERCENT OF ALL SURPLUS VOTES. THIS COULD BE ENOUGH FOR ONE OR TWO MORE SEATS.

5. ALTHOUGH THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE EXPATRIATE FRENCH-MAN SAMUEL FLATTO-SHARON APPEARS TO HAVE WON TWO SEATS, HE WILL ONLY BE ALLOTTED ONE BECAUSE HIS IS THE ONLY NAME APPEARING ON HIS LIST. (INEXPLICABLY, HE DID NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER NAME WHEN HE FILED. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED HALF FACETIOUSLY THAT HE HOPED IN THIS WAY TO ENSURE HIS IMMUNITY FROM EXTRADITION TO FRANCE WHERE HE IS WANTED FOR FRAUD AND OTHER CHARGES. THE REASONING IS THAT A KNESSET OF 119 MEMBERS IS NOT A LEGAL BODY AND SINCE THERE IS NO ONE ON HIS LIST TO REPLACE HIM, HE COULD NOT BE EXTRADITED.) ALL THE VOTES HE RECEIVED BEYOND THOSE NECESSARY FOR HIS ONE PERCENT WILL GO INTO THE SURPLUS POOL.

6. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE LIKUD SEAT TOTAL WILL

BE SOMEWHAT LARGER THAN THE VOTING RESULTS THUS FAR
INDICATE. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO DO WELL IN THE SOLDIER
VOTE (THE LIKUD RECEIVED 42 PERCENT OF THE SOLDIER VOTE
IN 1973 WHILE WINNING ONLY 30 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE) AND
MAY YET BENEFIT BY A SEAT OR TWO FROM THE BADER-OFER
LAW. THE ALIGNMENT MAY ALSO INCREASE ITS CURRENT
SHOWING AS A RESULT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUSES.
LEWIS

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